

BOARD OF ETHICS
Open Session Minutes
June 13, 2007 - 3:08 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Darryl L. DePriest, Chair
Michael F. Quirk
Miguel A. Ruiz
Mary Beth S. Robinson

John L. Wilhelm, M.D. (Absent)

Staff Present

Steven I. Berlin, Acting Executive Director
Michael Haggerty, Deputy Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Briana Billingslea, Attorney-Investigator
Edward Primer, Program Director
Pully Casillas, Staff Assistant

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (John L. Wilhelm, M.D., absent) to approve the Open Session minutes of the May 2, 2007 meeting, as amended.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Acting Executive Director's Report

A. New Board Member

Mr. Berlin advised the Board that he has been informed by the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs that a candidate by the name of Mr. Thomas J. Mc Carthy is being considered for appointment to this board. Mr. Mc Carthy will be introduced to City Council on July 19, 2007 for confirmation.

B. Education-Classes

Since the last Board meeting, there have been 2 regularly scheduled classes for persons required to attend ethics training. On May 16, 16 attended, and on June 6, 10 attended.

Also, on May 16, staff conducted a 60 minute session for all nine newly-elected aldermen.

There are currently 18 persons scheduled for class on June 20.

At the request of the Commissioner of Environment, on May 9 staff presented a 45 minute class to senior department staff on the responsibilities and obligations City employees have with respect to City-sponsored 501(c)(3) organizations.

At the request of the Director of the O'Hare Modernization Program office, staff presented a 60 minute class to 67 of its contractors and employees on June 12. The next class for OMP contractors is scheduled for September 11.

C. Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

As of today at 2:00 p.m., 19,976 City employees—more than 50% of the City's workforce—have completed the 2007 on-line ethics training program.

The 2007 program for aldermen is scheduled to “go-live” tomorrow. Staff will be contacting all of the aldermen and their staff regarding the schedule for them to complete the program.

Due to production delays in the Office of Cable Communications, the “DVD” version of the on-line training has not yet been completed. Staff hopes to have it completed by the end of June.

D. Statements of Financial Interests

Through today, there remain 41 employees and 1 appointed official who, despite having been found in violation of the Ordinance by the Board in September, have failed to file their 2006 Statements of Financial Interests by May 31, as required by law.

As required by Ordinance, on May 15, staff sent notice via certified mail to those 891 employees and 65 appointed officials who had not filed their 2007 Statement of Financial Interests forms by that date.

As of today, there remain 240 employees and 32 appointed officials who have not yet filed their 2007 forms as required by Ordinance.

To date, staff has collected \$12,820 in late filing fees for 2007.

Staff is working with each department's ethics liaison to achieve 100% compliance with this requirement.

E. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently 558 lobbyists who have registered with the City for 2007. Since the last meeting no lobbyists have terminated their registration. To date, approximately \$114,000.00 in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

On June 20, staff will send via email, to all but about 10 of the currently registered lobbyists, notice that their semi-annual lobbying activity forms are due in our office by July 20. The remaining 10 lobbyists will be sent that notice by first class mail. The appropriate forms will be posted on the Board's website.

Staff continues to work with BIS in completing an online registration program. However, this agency has been stalled in its work, and awaits BIS notice for staff to move into either "Phase II" of the project or to begin an alternate design for a portion of the new program.

F. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office received one request for 46 lobbyists' filings and one for 90 aldermanic recusal documents. Approximately 113 documents were produced in response:

1. This request was for FORTY-SIX forms. It was a request for all lobbyist filings for eight lobbyists' forms covering various years: two requests for 2002, five requests for 2003, four requests for 2004 and four requests for 2005. All records were available except two for 2004, and, of those produced, approximately one-half were copied.
2. This request was for approximately NINETY forms. The forms were Aldermanic recusals. All were produced and copied.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

G. Semi-Annual Review of the Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes Under the Illinois Open Meetings Act

It was announced that during the executive session, Board members would conduct the semi-annual review of Board executive session minutes as required by the Illinois Open Meeting Act, and would reconvene in open session to confirm the Board's determination.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (John L. Wilhelm, M.D., absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:16 p.m. to review matters concerning the conduct of employees and officials of the City that could result in their discipline or dismissal, to review questions concerning matters of professional ethics and performance, to review matters in which litigation is ongoing, and/or to review matters in which the Board finds that litigation against or affecting the Board is probable or imminent.

VI. New Business (Reconvened)

H. Semi-annual Review of the Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes under the Illinois Open Minutes Act.

At 4:33 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session to confirm its vote in Executive Session on the confidentiality of the Executive Session Minutes. The Board VOTED 4-0 (John L. Wilhelm, M.D., absent) to confirm that the Executive Session Minutes of the Board from August 1987 to May 2007 remain confidential, on the ground that the need for confidentiality still exists as to those minutes, with the exception of those that have already been made publicly available by vote of the Board.

The Board VOTED 4-0 (John L. Wilhelm, M.D., absent) to adjourn the meeting at 4:34 p.m.